IN THE CLAIMS

22.   (currently amended)A digital contents distribution method to distribute digital content via a network, comprising the steps of:

selecting digital contents corresponding to each of a plurality of stores selling said digital contents, when said selected digital contents is not saved in said stores, and generating a distribution schedule for controlling distribution of said digital contents corresponding to said stores;

instructing distribution of said digital contents to each of said stores according to said distribution schedule to each of said stores; and

selling, at each of said stores, a particular digital content selected by a customer from said distributed digital contents.

23.   (currently amended)A digital contents distribution method to distribute digital content via a network, comprising the steps of:

when digital contents selected by a customer is not saved in a vending device, transmitting a distribution request for said selected digital contents from said pendingvending device to a distribution management device;

upon transmittingin response to said distribution request of said selected digital contents transmitted from said distribution management device to a content database device, distributing to said distribution management device said selected digital contents transmitted from said content database device based on said distribution request;

transmitting to said vending device ~~said selected~~ digital contents

corresponding to said distribution request ~~by receiving said distribution request~~

~~transmitted~~ from said distribution management device; and

selling~~, at said vending device, said selected~~ ~~the~~ digital contents

distributed from said distribution management device.

24.	(currently amended)A digital contents distribution method in

accordance with claim 22, further comprising the steps of:

generating a digital ~~contents~~content by digitizing an original ~~contents~~

content and transmitting to a recognition device a request for confirmation of

~~contents~~content of said digital ~~contents~~content;

executing, in response to said request, confirmation of ~~contents for~~said

content of said digital ~~contents~~content by ~~receiving a request of said confirmation of~~

~~contents~~determining whether said content of said digital content has been generated

without error and transmitting ~~to a digitizing device~~ a message indicating~~to indicate~~

whether ~~or not the contents thereof are~~said content is to be recognized based on

said determination; and

receiving said message ~~from said recognition device,~~ and ~~indicating to~~

~~accumulate the~~accumulating said content of said digital ~~contents~~content if said

content of said digital content has been recognized~~ by said recognition device~~.

25.	(currently amended)A digital contents distribution method to distribute

digital contents via a network, comprising the steps of:

collecting from a plurality of stores, sales information of digital contents sold, ~~to a~~via said stores, ~~customer~~customers;

calculating numbers of each of said digital contents sold via said stores ~~during~~among a predetermined period based on said collected sales information ~~of said predetermined period~~;

calculating a total number of ~~sold~~said digital contents sold for each ~~digitized~~digital contents holder that licenses ~~having a license for said~~ digital contents to said stores; and

sending ~~for~~to said digital contents holder a fee corresponding to the total number of said digital contents sold via said stores for each ~~of the~~digital contents holder.

26. (currently amended)A digital contents distribution system to distribute digital content via a network, comprising:

a distribution control section for selecting digital contents corresponding to each of a plurality of ~~store~~stores selling said digital contents, when said selected digital contents is not saved in said stores, generating a distribution schedule for controlling distribution of said digital contents corresponding said stores, and instructing distribution of said digital contents to each of said stores according to said distribution schedule ~~to each of said stores~~; and

a sales section for selling, at each of said stores, a particular digital content selected by a customer from said distributed digital contents.

27.   (currently amended)A digital contents distribution system to distribute

digital content via a network, comprising:

a processing section for collecting from a plurality of stores, sales

information of digital contents sold to a customercustomers via said stores; and

a license fee section for calculating numbers of each of said digital

contents sold amongvia said stores during a predetermined period based on said

collected sales information of said predetermined period, and calculating a total

number of soldsaid digital contents sold for each digital contents holder having

license for saidthat licenses digital contents to said stores, and sending forto said

digital contents holder a fee corresponding to the total number of soldsaid digital

contents sold via said stores calculated for each ofdigital contents holder.

28.   (currently amended)A digital contents distribution system to distribute

digital content via a network, comprising:

a distribution requesting section for, when digital contents selected by a

customer is not saved in a vending device, transmitting a distribution request for said

selected digital contents from said vending device to a distribution management

device;

a distribution request relay section for upon transmitting, in response to

said distribution request for said selected digital contents transmitted from said

distribution management device to a content database device, distributing to said

distribution management device said selected digital contents transmitted from said

content database device based on said distribution request;

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a requested content distribution section for transmitting to said vending device <u>said selected</u> digital contents corresponding to said distribution request ~~by~~ ~~receiving said distribution request transmitted~~ from said distribution management device; and

a sales section for selling<u>, at said vending device, said selected</u> ~~the~~ digital contents distributed from said distribution management device.

29.   (currently amended)A computer readable medium storing a program for executing a digital contents distribution method to distribute digital content via a network, said method comprising the steps of:

selecting digital contents corresponding to each of a plurality of stores selling said digital contents<u>, when said selected digital contents is not saved in said stores</u>, and generating a distribution schedule for controlling distribution of said digital contents corresponding to said stores;

instructing distribution of <u>said</u> digital contents <u>to each of said stores</u> according to said distribution schedule ~~to each of said stores~~; and

selling<u>, at each of said stores,</u> a particular digital content selected by a customer from said distributed digital contents.

30.   (currently amended)A computer readable medium storing a program for distributing digital contents via a network, said program when executed causes a computer to perform the steps of:

collecting from a plurality of stores, sales information of digital contents

sold to a customercustomers via said stores;

calculating numbers of each of said digital contents sold duringvia said

stores during a predetermined period based on said collected sales information of

said predetermined period;

calculating a total number of soldsaid digital contents sold for each

digital contents holder that licenseshaving a license for said digital contents to said

stores; and

sending forto said digital contents holder a fee corresponding to athe

total number of soldsaid digital contents calculated sold via said stores for each

ofdigital contents holder.

31.　　(currently amended)A computer readable medium storing a program

for distributing digital contents via a network, said program when executed causes a

computer to perform the steps of:

when digital contents selected by a customer is not saved in a vending

device, transmitting a distribution request for said selected digital contents from said

vending device to a distribution management device;

upon transmittingin response to said distribution request for said

selected digital contents transmitted from said distribution management device to a

content database device, distributing to said distribution management device said

selected digital contents transmitted from said content database device based on

said distribution request;

transmitting to said vending device said selected digital contents corresponding to said distribution request ~~by receiving said distribution request transmitted~~ from said distribution management device; and

selling, at said vending device, said selected ~~the~~ digital contents distributed from said distribution management device.

32.   (currently amended)A program file storing a program for distributing a digital contents via a network, said program when executed causes a computer to perform the steps of:

selecting digital contents corresponding to each of a plurality of stores selling said digital contents, when said selected digital contents is not saved in said stores, and generating a distribution schedule for controlling distribution of said digital contents corresponding to said stores;

instructing distribution of said digital contents to each of said stores according to said distribution schedule ~~to each of said stores~~; and

selling, at each of said stores, a particular digital content selected by a customer from said distributed digital contents.